GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1839
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2001
DISCOVERY OF SHIVA TEMPLE NEAR AMARNATH CAVE
RENUKA CHOWDHURY

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a historic Shiva cave temple complex believed to be 1,500 years old has been discovered in Chandanwari near the holy cave of Amarnath in South Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details of the cave complex discovered; and

(c) the steps being taken to develop the new found caves into a pilgrimage and tourist attraction?

Answer

MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN)

a) Yes, Sir. However the historicity of the site has not been established.

b) As per information furnished by the State Government, there is a naturally-formed cave complex wherein two stone idols identified as Lord Shiva, have been found. More than a dozen of Shiva-lingas have also been found.

c) The State Government have informed that the existence of these caves has been widely publicized. According to them, further development of the area would depend on the quantum of tourists visiting the site.